

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**RICHARD HATCH,**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**Civil Action No. 2:07cv104  
(Judge Maxwell)**

**DOMINC A. GUTIERREZ, WAYNE  
PHILLIPS, LEWIS BRESOACH,  
VERONICA FERNANDEZ, DANIEL  
J. HICKEY AND RENEE CROGAN,**

**Defendants.**

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION  
TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

On January 22, 2008, this case came before the Court for an *ex parte* hearing on the plaintiff's Request to Proceed In Forma Pauperis ("IFP"), Motion to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees, executed Consent to Collection of Fees form and Prisoner Trust Account Report.

Title 28 U.S.C. § 1915 requires prisoners to pay the full \$350 filing fee when bringing a civil action IFP. 28 U.S.C. § 1915 (b)(1) (1996). If, however, insufficient funds exist in the prisoner's account to pay the full filing fee at the time of filing, the court must assess and, when funds exist, collect an initial filing fee of twenty percent (20%) of the greater of the average monthly deposits to the prisoner's account or the average monthly balance in the prisoner's account for the prior six month period. Id. Thereafter, the prisoner is required to make monthly payments of twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month's income. Id. The agency having custody of the prisoner must forward payments from the prisoner's account to the Clerk of Court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00 until the \$350 filing fee is paid in full. Id.

From the information contained in the plaintiff's financial papers, and his sworn statements at the January 22nd hearing, the undersigned has determined that the plaintiff did not have sufficient funds to pay the full filing fee at the time this case was filed. Accordingly, the plaintiff's requests to proceed as a pauper (dckt. 2 & 5) are **GRANTED**. However, the plaintiff's Prisoner Trust Account Report shows that in the six-months preceding the filing of this case, the plaintiff had an average monthly deposit amount of \$261.53. Moreover, at the time of filing, the plaintiff's inmate account had a balance of \$149.85. Accordingly, consistent with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. A copy of this Order shall be sent to the Trustee Officer of the institution having custody of the plaintiff along with a copy of the executed consent to collection of fees form. Pursuant to the plaintiff's executed consent to collection of fees form, the Trustee Officer shall forward to the Financial Deputy Clerk, in the form of a check or money order payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court," P. O. Box 1518, Elkins, West Virginia 26241, an **initial partial filing fee of \$52.30**; and, (b) automatically make monthly assessments upon the plaintiffs' trust account of 20% of the preceding month's income toward the filing fee and shall forward such assessments to the Financial Deputy Clerk in the form of a check or money order at the above-mentioned address each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00, until the \$350 filing fee is paid in full. Payments shall be clearly marked with the name and number assigned to this case. When the filing fee is paid in full, the Financial Deputy Clerk shall file a notice so stating;

2. If the plaintiff fails to pay the initial filing fee within **thirty (30) days** of the entry of this Order, the Clerk shall **DISMISS this action without prejudice**;

3. Upon the Financial Deputy Clerk's receipt of the initial partial filing fee, the Financial Deputy Clerk shall notify the Clerk of the appropriate district court that the initial partial filing fee

has been paid. The Court will thereafter conduct an initial screening of the complaint pursuant to LR PL P 83.02;

4. Any recovery in this case will be subject to an applicable service of process fee assessed by the U.S. Marshal;

5. Plaintiff shall immediately notify the Clerk upon his transfer or release and shall provide a new address if known. **Failure to notify the court of a change of address may result in the dismissal of this case;**

6. In the event that the defendant is ordered to respond to the complaint, the United States Marshal Service will be Ordered to serve the complaint.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to the *pro se* plaintiff, any counsel of record, the Financial Deputy Clerk, and the Trustee Clerk of the institution having custody of the plaintiff.

DATED: January 22, 2008.

*John S. Kaull*  
JOHN S. KAULL  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE